

Founded by  
FRANCIS H. HERRICK  
in 1905 for the recording  
of bird activities.



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*Bird Calendar of the*

**CLEVELAND BIRD CLUB**

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Weather statistics for the first three months of the year are as follows.

Month	Mean Temperature	Normal Temperature	Total Precipitation	Normal Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Normal Snowfall
January	23.8°F.	26.5°F.	1.41 in.	2.51 in.	11.2 in.	10.3 in.
February	21.0	27.4	2.19	2.58	9.1	9.7
March	39.5	34.6	3.28	2.71	10.1	5.1

Mean monthly temperatures were below normal during both January and February, being especially severe in February, although the minimum temperature for the entire winter came on January 22 and was -10°F. The peculiarity of the temperature conditions during the winter was not so much the degree of low temperature reached but the long day after day continuance of sub-normal temperatures without temporary let-ups. Although the total precipitation for the three months was almost an inch below normal, the amount that came in the form of snow was above normal. Heavy and frequent snowfall combined with continuous low temperatures produced conditions apparently inimical to bird-life.

The following people contributed records to this bulletin:

John Aldrich  
Robert L. Baird  
B.P. Bole, Jr.  
E.C. Hoffman  
Franklin Jedlicka  
Lynds Jones

S. Charles Kendeigh  
Margarette E. Morse  
Ralph O'Reilly, Jr.  
Merit B. Skaggs  
M.B. Walters  
Arthur B. Williams

In the following table is a record of the total number of trips for birds each month, time spent in various habitats, and other factors. The table is compiled from data furnished by each contributor. The first three items in the table are accurate, as they can easily be determined. No trip is counted that is less than one hour in duration. By observers per trip is meant the number of persons in a party competent in bird identification, not the total number of people present on the trip. The number of hours per trip should exclude time spent in transit when little or no careful bird observations are made. An exception to this is the taking of a duck census along the lake shore when intermediate distances between points of observation are transversed by automobile. In this case some observation can be made from the car and frequent stops of a few minutes made, so that the total time of the trip should be taken. The fourth item in the table concerning mileage covered on foot excludes mileage by automobile and is only approximate. It would also be desirable to give the mileage covered by automobile in some cases, as in making duck censuses along the lake. The number of hours spent in different habitats has been computed from data furnished by collaborators as to localities or habitats covered. We would like those reporting field trips to give this information as accurately and in as much detail as possible.

Month	January	February	March
Number of trips	20	27	45
Observers per trip	1.7	1.9	2.0
Hours per trip	2.2	2.8	3.1
Total mileage on foot per trip	1.5	2.6	2.4
Total hours of observation in dense woods	16	42	53
Total hours of observation in open country	8	17	36
Total hours of observation in marshes, along lakes and streams	20	16	49

The largest number of trips reported by any one individual for these three months is 24 by Dr. Lynds Jones and several of these trips were for all day up to the Marblehead region. His total list of birds seen is 75.

Exactly 100 species of birds were recorded by all observers during the first three months of this year. This is a larger number for this period than were recorded during any of the three preceding years. Some twelve species are of such unusual interest as to require special mention.

Horned Grebe (C.M. Shipman) – February 13 (1) This bird was captured alive from a small open pool in the river near Willoughby where it had very likely been wintering.

Whistling Swan (L.J., A.B.W., R.B) – March 22 (500), 24 (500, 1), 28 (175) This species appears to be on the increase. The large numbers observed were in the general Marblehead region across the bay from Sandusky. The one individual reported for March 24 was seen on the small pond along the drive leading to the nature trail at the North Chagrin Metropolitan Park. In describing this occurrence, Dr. Williams notes that the bird was seen closely by both himself and Mr. Walters, that the bill of the bird and the space before the eye was entirely black, more like the head of a trumpeter swan than a whistling swan, and that there was no knob on the bill as in the mute swan. In addition to the above records, Mr. Paul H. Oppman reported seeing a pair of these birds on the Dover Pond north of the intersection of Detroit and Clague Roads west of Cleveland several times between March 21 and 26. He states, "One afternoon at 2 o'clock the birds were resting. In unison they would put their black bills under the upper part of their left wing. When they were disturbed they would raise their heads in unison. We saw this repeated at least a dozen times - - - so it was not a matter of coincidence. Several times the swans came close enough to see the yellow spot at the base of the eye." During the last week of January a swan was seen by several people near Gordon Park, but according to Mr. Skaggs, who observed the bird at close range, it was a mute swan, escaped probably from captivity, and not a whistling swan.

European Wigeon (M.B.S.) – March 28 (1) Observed by many members of the Bird Club at the Sherwin Estate.

Old-squaw Duck (L.J., F.J.) – January 1 (4), February 22 (1) The bird observed on February 22<sup>nd</sup> was on the Baldwin Reservoir.

Broad-winged Hawk (A.B.W.) – March 10 (1), 20 (1)

Great Black-backed Gull (E.C.H.) – February 29 (1) Observed at close range in Lakewood. The species has also been observed throughout the winter at Ashtabula Harbor and may be increasing in numbers in this region.

Great Horned Owl (M.B.S.) – March 29 (2) Nest with one young seen.

Northern Horned Lark (R.B.) – February 8 (flock).

Carolina Wren (A.B.W.) – March 20 (2)

Purple Finch (L.J.) – March 28 (8)  
 Lapland Longspur (L.J.) – February 21 (40), March 1 (6)  
 Snow Bunting (L.J.) – February 20 (flock), 21 (9)

In the following tables a new departure is made in the manner of analyzing the relative abundance of the different species seen. In previous bulletins of this calendar an index of abundance was used for each species which was computed by multiplying the average number of individuals of a species recorded on all the trips during the month by the percentage of these trips on which the species was seen. These indexes have some relative significance in comparing the abundance of a species from year to year but are subject to error due to the often wide variations in the time duration of the different trips. It was thought at one time that this could be corrected for but it now seems preferable to use another method that avoids this difficulty. For sake of making comparisons, the abundance of a bird would probably best be indicated as so many birds observed per mile on foot. This is subject, however, to the difficulty of estimating accurately the actual territory censused on each trip even if a pedometer is used. The system that will be employed in this bulletin is the number of birds observed per hour in each habitat. The total number of individuals of a species recorded during the month is determined and this is divided, not by the total number of hours spent in the field, but by the number of hours observation in the particular habitat in which the species most commonly occurs. The abundance of a species based on these statistics is subject to two principal sources of error, the accurate counting of all birds seen in the field and the accurate estimation of the time spent in each habitat. Special advantages of the method are the simpler computations involved and their more obvious interpretation. The averages in the tables below are for the three winter months of December, January, and February. The December data are from the last bulletin, the March data will be included with April and May in the next bulletin, which will cover the spring season.

BIRDS OF THE DENSER WOODS

Species	Number observed per hour in habitat (Average of December, January, February)	
	1936	1935
Black-capped Chickadee	2.17	1.79
Cardinal	1.79	1.57
Tufted Titmouse	1.77	2.46
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.36	1.34
Downy Woodpecker	1.05	1.48
Hairy Woodpecker	0.33	0.64
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.22	0.20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.19	0.00
Brown Creeper	0.08	0.06
Barred Owl	0.08	0.09
Ruffed Grouse	0.07	0.03
Pileated Woodpecker	0.04	0.21
Winter Wren	0.03	0.07
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.10</u>
Total	9.20	10.04

The distribution of the chickadee around Cleveland is one of interest. For the region as a whole, it is the most abundant forest bird during the winter season, but this is based mostly on records for the district lying east of the city itself. Around Oberlin, Lorain, and westward of Cleveland, Dr. Lynds Jones reports this species to be quite rare and he has very few records. Why this difference in abundance on the two sides of Cleveland?

For the region as a whole, the red-breasted nuthatch reached its maximum abundance last October and has been decreasing in abundance each month since. Except for Little Mountain, the species was recorded only once in January and at no time in either February or March. In the pine-hemlock forest on top of Little Mountain, six individuals were recorded regularly through most of January, February, and March. This forest is practically the same sort of habitat in which it nests in Canada, while the Cleveland region as a whole is not. Is this the reason the species has been common there and not elsewhere around Cleveland this winter?

The total abundance of all species this past winter is somewhat less than the total abundance for the preceding winter. The tufted titmouse, the downy, hairy, pileated, and red-bellied woodpeckers, and winter wren, were less common this year while the chickadee, cardinal, and perhaps one or two others were more so.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY  
(Open woods, shrubby fields, farmland, cities)

Species	Number observed per hour in habitat (Average of December, January, February)	
	1936	1935
English Sparrow	29.96	-----
Tree Sparrow	23.28	15.63
Starling	19.70	31.93
Slate-colored Junco	15.55	5.11
Crow	4.32	1.25
Bob-white	4.24	2.69
Blue Jay	3.77	3.15
Prairie Horned Lark	3.12	17.52
Song Sparrow	2.74	0.79
Goldfinch	2.01	3.12
Cedar Waxwing	1.59	0.00
Ring-necked Pheasant	1.07	0.15
Lapland Longspur	0.78	2.45
Mourning Dove	0.71	0.43
Sparrow Hawk	0.28	0.30
Screech Owl	0.19	0.07
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.17	0.07
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.08	0.00
Robin	0.08	0.00
Red-tailed Hawk	0.06	0.08
Flicker	0.06	0.51
Cooper Hawk	0.06	0.00
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0.04	0.03
Rough-legged Hawk	0.04	0.03
Marsh Hawk	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.16</u>
Total (excluding English sparrow)	83.96	85.47

There is a general belief that the past winter has been a particularly severe one on birds due to long continued cold and snow. The data in the above two tables support this impression only in part. The total abundance of open country birds is about the same for the two years, although it has already been noted that forest birds were slightly reduced. Of the above species, the decrease in the number of wintering starlings and goldfinches may be noted. The decrease in the prairie horned larks and Lapland longspurs may be due simply to less effort having been made this winter to find them, as is known to have been the case. On the other hand, tree sparrows and juncos and some other species seem to have wintered in larger than usual numbers.

The bob-white is one of the species that supposedly suffered during the past winter, presumably in some parts of Ohio to the extent of 60 – 75% of their normal numbers. The data for the winter season as a whole in the Cleveland region indicate that the species not only held its own, but may have been even more abundant than last year. However, when the abundance of the species this year and last is compared month by month, a different picture is presented:

Winter	December	January	February
1934-35	2.46	2.90	2.71
1935-36	5.14	5.00	1.58

In 1934-35 the species maintained nearly constant numbers throughout the winter months. In 1935-36, there was a very decided drop in abundance in February of about 69% from the average numbers in December and January. It will be of considerable interest to compare the figures from the spring months this year, when they become available, with those for last year to see if this drop indicated for February is a really significant one.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN LAKE, LAKESHORE, STREAMS, AND MARSHES

Species	Number observed per hour in habitat (Average of December, January, February)	
	1936	1935
Ring-billed Gull	119.23	14.32
Herring Gull	57.23	16.64
Lesser Scaup Duck	53.55	47.49
Bonaparte Gull	13.93	6.16
Black Duck	13.86	2.64
American Golden-eye	12.93	0.73
American Merganser	8.68	4.25
Red-breasted Merganser	3.54	1.59
Bald Eagle	0.19	0.00
Old-squaw Duck	0.09	0.00
Belted Kingfisher	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	283.25	93.82

The figures showing the abundance of these water birds are very probably higher than they should be in relation to the figures for birds in other habitats. The reason for this is that during the past season the lake has been almost continuously frozen as far out as the eye could determine, except for local areas where warm water wastes have maintained small pools of open water. In these pools the birds were concentrated and all of these pools in the

vicinity of Cleveland could be visited by automobile in a few minutes, so that their average abundance on a time basis is high.

There is special interest in the fact that the ring-billed gull, according to these figures, was more abundant during the past winter than the herring gull. This was due to an unusually heavy concentration of the former species in this area during December. Actually during January and February the herring gull slightly outranked the ring-billed gull (18.34 : 12.18). A few observers fail to distinguish between the two species and identify all large gulls as simply herring gulls, but it has been the editor's experience in former years that the ring-billed gull may be more abundant than the herring gull at times, especially during the early winter, although during most of the year the herring gull is the more abundant of the two.

Each species appears to have been more abundant this year than last. Considering the ducks and mergansers separately, their total abundance this past year was 92.65 compared to 56.70 for the year before. Mr. Robert L. Baird estimates that 10,000 ducks were present in the outer three harbors near Marblehead on March 28, but these are not included in the above averages.

#### SPRING MIGRATION

Species	First Record	Remarks
Prairie Horned Lark	February 19 (3)	Many wintered, influx on 19th.
Crow	February 25 (63)	Many wintered, influx on 25th.
Canvasback	February 25 (10)	
Black Duck	February 25 (44)	Last previous record, Jan. 1 (10)
Robin	March 1 (10)	A few wintered.
Bluebird	March 1 (2)	
Song Sparrow	March 1 (10, 2)	Many wintered, influx on 1st.
Red-winged Blackbird	March 1 (30)	
Rusty Blackbird	March 1 (flock)	
Bronzed Grackle	March 1 (2)	
American Merganser	March 1 (115)	Several wintered
Meadowlark	March 3 (1)	
Mallard	March 3 (4)	
Hooded Merganser	March 3 (2)	
Killdeer	March 4 (1)	
Mourning Dove	March 5 (4)	Some wintered
Marsh Hawk	March 5 (1)	One winter record (or early migrant?), Feb. 21 (1)
Redhead Duck	March 5 (18)	
Coot	March 5 (1)	
Turkey Vulture	March 7 (1)	
Cowbird	March 8 (2)	
Ring-necked Duck	March 8 (1)	Also January 4 (2) M.E.M.
Pintail	March 8 (7)	
Baldpate	March 8 (75)	
Gadwall	March 8 (2)	
Phoebe	March 10 (1)	
Towhee	March 12	
Green-winged Teal	March 15 (3)	
Shoveller	March 22 (14)	Also February 21 (4) L.J.
Bufflehead	March 22 (2)	
Whistling Swan	March 22 (500)	

Canada Goose	Mar 22 (24)	
Great Blue Heron	Mar 22 (1)	
Pipit	Mar 24 (30)	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Mar 24 (flock)	
Field Sparrow	Mar 26 (1)	
Wilson Snipe	March 26 (2)	
Belted Kingfisher	Mar 27 (1)	Also February 16 (1)
Blue-winged Teal	Mar 28 (12)	
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar 28 (3)	
Fox Sparrow	March 28 (1, 1)	
Chipping Sparrow	March 28 (4)	
Vesper Sparrow	March 28 (20)	
Migrant Shrike	March 28 (1)	
Flicker	March 28 (20)	Some wintered
Purple Martin	March 28 (1)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	March 29 (3)	
Ruddy Duck	March 29 (1)	
Hermit Thrush	March 31 (1)	

Two other records may be recorded, although somewhat doubtful:

Barn Swallow	March 15 (2)	
House Wren	March 24 (1)	Reported singing and seen entering a bird-house

There appears to have been five major waves of migration thus far: February 25, March 1, March 5-8, March 22, and March 28. Between these dates scattered arrivals may represent waves of secondary importance or may be species that had arrived earlier but were missed in the field. In addition to the above, Mr. E.C. Hoffman reports a large movement eastward of crows, robins, bronzed grackles, and red-winged blackbirds along the lake shore on March 11.

The following list of birds for the Cleveland region was compiled from the back numbers of the Bird Calendar for the 31 year period beginning in 1905 and continuing through 1935. All species listed were recorded at some time in the Bird Calendar. No attempt was made to survey or include species recorded elsewhere, as in museum specimens or in published literature. That will come later. A few species that have been reported to the calendar are not included in this list, because of insufficient notation concerning their occurrence and high improbability of their correct identification. These species are the Pacific loon, eared grebe, Canada jay, Bicknell's thrush, Swainson's warbler, black-throated gray warbler, and Le Conte's sparrow. No attempt is made in the following list to indicate whether or not the records of some of the rarer species are supported by actual museum specimens; in many cases they are not: on the whole the list is a record of sight identifications of birds in this region. The list should be useful as a guide to present day bird observers as to what to expect to find on their trips into the field.

BIRDS OF THE CLEVELAND REGION

Compiled by Mr. Ralph O'Reilly, Jr.

Birds seen in Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Erie, Sandusky, and Ottawa counties and reported in the Bird Calendar of the Cleveland Bird Club.

1. Common Loon
2. Red-throated Loon
3. Holboell's Grebe
4. Horned Grebe
5. Pied-billed Grebe
6. Double-crested Cormorant
7. Great Blue Heron
8. American Egret
9. Little Blue Heron
10. Green Heron
11. Black-crowned Night Heron
12. American Bittern
13. Least Bittern
14. Whistling Swan
15. Canada Goose
16. American Brant
17. Blue Goose
18. Snow Goose
19. Common Mallard
20. Black Duck
21. Gadwall
22. Baldpate
23. Pintail
24. Green-winged Teal
25. Blue-winged Teal
26. Shoveller
27. Wood Duck
28. Red-head
29. Ring-necked Duck
30. Canvasback
31. Greater Scaup Duck
32. Lesser Scaup Duck
33. American Goldeneye
34. Bufflehead
35. Old-squaw
36. White-winged Scoter
37. Surf Scoter
38. Ruddy Duck
39. Hooded Merganser
40. American Merganser
41. Red-breasted Merganser
42. Turkey Vulture
43. Goshawk
44. Sharp-shinned Hawk
45. Cooper's Hawk
46. Red-tailed Hawk
47. Red-shouldered Hawk
48. Broad-winged Hawk
49. Rough-legged Hawk
50. Golden Eagle
51. Bald Eagle
52. Marsh Hawk
53. Osprey
54. Duck Hawk
55. Pigeon Hawk
56. Sparrow Hawk
57. Ruffed Grouse
58. Bob-white
59. Ring-necked Pheasant
60. King Rail
61. Virginia Rail
62. Sora
63. Florida Gallinule
64. American Coot
65. Piping Plover
66. Semipalmated Plover
67. Killdeer
68. Golden Plover
69. Black-bellied Plover
70. Ruddy Turnstone
71. American Woodcock
72. Wilson's Snipe
73. Hudsonian Curlew
74. Upland Plover
75. Spotted Sandpiper
76. Solitary Sandpiper
77. Western Willet
78. Greater Yellow-legs
79. Lesser Yellow-legs
80. American Knot
81. Purple Sandpiper
82. Pectoral Sandpiper
83. White-rumped Sandpiper
84. Baird's Sandpiper
85. Least Sandpiper
86. Red-backed Sandpiper
87. Eastern Dowitcher
88. Stilt Sandpiper
89. Semipalmated Sandpiper
90. Sanderling
91. Red Phalarope
92. Northern Phalarope
93. Parasitic Jaeger
94. Iceland Gull
95. Great Black-backed Gull



96. Herring Gull
97. Ring-billed Gull
98. Franklin's Gull
99. Bonaparte's Gull
100. Common Tern
101. Caspian Tern
102. Black Tern
103. Mourning Dove
104. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
105. Black-billed Cuckoo
106. Barn Owl
107. Screech Owl
108. Great Horned Owl
109. Snowy Owl
110. Barred Owl
111. Short-eared Owl
112. Saw-whet Owl
113. Whip-poor-will
114. Nighthawk
115. Chimney Swift
116. Hummingbird
117. Belted Kingfisher
118. Flicker
119. Pileated Woodpecker
120. Red-bellied Woodpecker
121. Red-headed Woodpecker
122. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
123. Hairy Woodpecker
124. Downy Woodpecker
125. Kingbird
126. Crested Flycatcher
127. Phoebe
128. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
129. Acadian Flycatcher
130. Alder Flycatcher
131. Least Flycatcher
132. Wood Pewee
133. Olive-sided Flycatcher
134. Hoyt's Horned Lark
135. Northern Horned Lark
136. Prairie Horned Lark
137. Tree Swallow
138. Bank Swallow
139. Rough-winged Swallow
140. Barn Swallow
141. Cliff Swallow
142. Purple Martin
143. Blue Jay
144. Northern Raven
145. Eastern Crow
146. Black-capped Chickadee
147. Tufted Titmouse
148. White-breasted Nuthatch
149. Red-breasted Nuthatch
150. Brown Creeper
151. Ohio House Wren
152. Winter Wren
153. Bewick's Wren
154. Carolina Wren
155. Prairie Marsh Wren
156. Short-billed Marsh Wren
157. Mockingbird
158. Catbird
159. Brown Thrasher
160. Robin
161. Wood Thrush
162. Hermit Thrush
163. Olive-backed Thrush
164. Gray-cheeked Thrush
165. Veery
166. Bluebird
167. Blue-gray gnatcatcher
168. Golden-crowned Kinglet
169. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
170. American Pipit
171. Bohemian Waxwing
172. Cedar Waxwing
173. Northern Shrike
174. Migrant Shrike
175. Starling
176. White-eyed Vireo
177. Yellow-throated Vireo
178. Blue-headed Vireo
179. Red-eyed Vireo
180. Philadelphia Vireo
181. Warbling Vireo
182. Black and White Warbler
183. Prothonotary Warbler
184. Worm-eating Warbler
185. Golden-winged Warbler
186. Blue-winged Warbler
187. Tennessee Warbler
188. Orange-crowned Warbler
189. Nashville Warbler

190. Parula Warbler
191. Yellow Warbler
192. Magnolia Warbler
193. Cape May Warbler
194. Black-throated Blue Warbler
195. Myrtle Warbler
196. Audubon's Warbler
197. Black-throated Green Warbler
198. Cerulean Warbler
199. Blackburnian Warbler
200. Sycamore Warbler
201. Chestnut-sided Warbler
202. Bay-breasted Warbler
203. Black-poll Warbler
204. Pine Warbler
205. Prairie Warbler
206. Palm Warbler
207. Ovenbird
208. Grinnel's Water-thrush
209. Louisiana Water-thrush
210. Kentucky Warbler
211. Connecticut Warbler
212. Mourning Warbler
213. Northern Yellow-throat
214. Yellow-breasted Chat
215. Hooded Warbler
216. Wilson's Warbler
217. Canada Warbler
218. Redstart
  
219. English Sparrow
  
220. Bobolink
221. Eastern Meadowlark
222. Yellow-headed Blackbird
223. Red-winged Blackbird
224. Orchard Oriole
225. Baltimore Oriole
226. Rusty Blackbird
227. Bronzed Grackle
228. Cowbird
  
229. Scarlet Tanager
  
230. Cardinal
231. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
232. Blue Grosbeak
233. Indigo Bunting
234. Dickcissel
235. Evening Grosbeak
236. Purple Finch
237. Pine Grosbeak
238. Common Redpoll
239. Pine Siskin
240. Goldfinch
241. Red Crossbill
  
242. Towhee
243. Eastern Savannah Sparrow
244. Grasshopper Sparrow
245. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow
246. Nelson's Sparrow
247. Vesper Sparrow
248. Lark Sparrow
249. Slate-colored Junco
250. Tree Sparrow
251. Chipping Sparrow
252. Field Sparrow
253. Harris's Sparrow
254. White-crowned Sparrow
255. White-throated Sparrow
256. Fox Sparrow
257. Lincoln's Sparrow
258. Swamp Sparrow
259. Song Sparrow
260. Lapland Longspur
261. Smith's Longspur
262. Snow Bunting